

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02  
SY-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 AID-05  
PC-01 /089 W

-----005056 111238Z /43

O R 111052Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9018

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINS GH

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONDITIONS DETERIORATE FURTHER; GOG TAKES  
TOUGHER LINE WITH STRIKING PROFESSIONALS

LONDON FOR SEITZ

1. SUMMARY: OVER THE WEEKEND OF JULY 9-10, POLITICAL  
CONDITIONS IN GHANA CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE. GOG GAVE  
STRIKING PROFESSIONALS 24 HOURS TO GET BACK TO WORK,  
RECALLED TROOPS ON LEAVE AND HAD ARMY TROOPS MOUNT SHOW  
OF FORCE ON GROUNDS OF KORLE BU HOSPITAL. MANY PROFESSIONALS,  
ESPECIALLY DOCTORS, ARE INFURIATED BY GOVERNMENT'S  
INTIMIDATION, BUT MOST OF POPULACE IN ACCRA REMAIN OUT-  
WARDLY CALM AS OF MORNING OF JULY 11. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A STATEMENT BROADCAST AFTERNOON AND EVENING JULY 9,  
SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) STRESSED MAGNANIMITY AND  
CALMNESS IT CLAIMS TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED DURING PRESENT  
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CRISIS, DESPITE REPEATED "PROVOCATIONS" BY STUDENTS,  
STRIKING DOCTORS AND OTHERS. STATEMENT GAVE PROFESSIONALS  
24 HOURS IN WHICH TO RETURN TO POSTS. (DEADLINE EXPIRED  
1400 LOCAL JULY 10.) STATEMENT SAID GOG "HAS NOW COME TO  
CONCLUSION THAT NO AMOUNT OF DISSUASION WILL MAKE THE FEW  
NATION-WRECKERS WHO ARE BENT ON DESTROYING GHANA CHANGE  
THEIR MINDS, AND IT IS THE INCONTESTABLE DUTY OF THE GOVERN-

MENT TO PREVENT THIS AT ALL COSTS" STATEMENT DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT STEPS GOG WOULD TAKE IF STRIKERS CONTINUE BUT SAID SMC "WOULD NOT SHIRK ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER AND WOULD ENSURE THAT SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE ARE PROVIDED."

3. STATEMENT ALSO SAID GOG DURING CURRENT CRISIS "HAD BECOME AWARE THAT SOME FOREIGN POWER, FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO ITSELF, HAD CHANNELLED HUGH SUMS OF MONEY TO SOME IRRESPONSIBLE OVER-AMBITIOUS, DISGRUNTLED AND UNPATRIOTIC POWER-SEEKING GHANAIS TO BE USED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND REPLACE IT WITH ITS LACKEYS."

4. IN A SEPARATE STATEMENT ALSO BROADCAST JULY 9, GOG DIRECTED ALL ARMY PERSONNEL ON LEAVE TO REPORT TO THEIR UNITS IMMEDIATELY. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, WE EXPECT THAT MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES ARE IN STATE OF ALERT.

5. OVER WEEKEND, SMC ALSO TRIED ITS HAND AT MODEST SHOW OF FORCE. ON JULY 9 A MACCHI JET FLEW LOW OVER ACCRA FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, PRESUMABLY TO INTIMIDATE CITIZENS. IN ADDITION, SOLDIERS APPEARED AND MOUNTED DEMONSTRATION AT KORLE BU HOSPITAL AND SOME OTHER TROOP MOVEMENTS WERE NOTED. EMBOFF SAW THREE MILITARY ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND TWO TRUCKS FULL OF ARMED TROOPS ON MAIN ROAD  
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HEADING OUT OF ACCRA TO THE WEST ON JULY 10. TROOPS WERE WAVING TO MOTORISTS AND TRYING TO PROJECT GOOD CHEER. HOWEVER, THEY QUICKLY TURNED SOUR-FACED AND HOSTILE WHEN SOME CIVILIANS JEERED AT THEM. PURPOSE OF CONVOY NOT KNOWN BUT WAS PROBABLY PART OF SHOW OF FORCE GAMBIT. (GBC ANNOUNCED ON NEWSCAST EVENING OF JULY 10 AND MORNING OF JULY 11 THAT SATURDAY'S TROOP EXERCISE AT HOSPITAL WAS A "ROUTINE" MILITARY PROCEDURE. IT WISHED TO ASSURE CITIZENS THAT IT WAS "IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THE STRIKE" AND THAT IT WOULD BE A "MISINTERPRETATION" TO REGARD IT AS "INTIMIDATION.")

6. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, AT LEAST ONE DOCTOR WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED JULY 9 DURING SCUFFLE WITH MILITARY FORCES AT KORLE BU HOSPITAL, WHERE DOCTORS HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE. DELEGATION OF SENIOR DOCTORS MET WITH ACHEAMPONG ON JULY 8 AND HAD UNDERSTOOD GOG WOULD TAKE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTION UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS HAD PASSED AND NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED BETWEEN SMC AND STRIKING PROFESSIONALS. UNEXPECTED SMC STATEMENT ORDERING EVERYBODY BACK TO WORK INFURIATED DOCTORS, WHO SAW IT AS CLEAR VIOLATION OF UNDERSTANDING. HOWEVER, BY EVENING JULY 10 HEAD OF GHANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLICLY APPEARED TO DOCTORS TO RETURN TO DUTY, ASSERTING THAT GOG HAD AGREED TO RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THEY HAVE DONE SO BUT WE HAVE ONE CONFIRMED REPORT OF DISTURBANCES (WINDOW BREAKING, FURNITURE SMASHING, ETC.) AT KORLE BU HOSPITAL MORNING JULY 11. OUR GUESS IS THAT MOST DOCTORS WILL NOT RPT NOT RETURN TO WORK. MANY HAVE VACATED THEIR GOVERNMENT-OWNED RESIDENCES. SEVERAL OTHER WELL KNOWN DOCTORS FEAR THEY MAY BE PICKED UP BY POLICE OR SECURITY FORCES AND HAVE BEEN SLEEPING AT FRIENDS' HOUSES RATHER THAN THEIR OWN. ALTHOUGH GOG HAS ANNOUNCED IT WANTS TO RESUME DIALOGUE WITH DOCTORS, WE DOUBT THEY WILL CALL OFF STRIKE WITHOUT MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS FROM ACHEAMPONG.

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7. WHETHER TRUE OR NOT, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT POWER FAILURE LAST WEEK WHICH RESULTED IN HEAVY DAMAGE TO VALCO ALUMINIUM PLANT (ACCRA 5187) MAY HAVE BEEN SABOTAGE RATHER THAN MECHANICAL FAILURE. IF SO, SABOTEURS WERE HIGHLY SKILLED (PRESUMABLY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS IN CHARGE OF AKOSOMBO DAM) SINCE POWER FAILURE WAS ARRANGED SO NEATLY THAT NO TRACES OF HUMAN INTERVENTION HAVE BEEN FOUND.

8. PETROLEUM REFINERY WORKERS WERE STILL ON STRIKE MORNING JULY 11 DESPITE APPEALS FROM MANAGEMENT AND TUC OFFICIALS TO RETURN TO WORK AND THREATS TO REPLACE THEM IF THEY DID NOT SHOW UP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A FEW DAY'S SUPPLY OF GASOLINE STORED IN TAKORADI MAY BE DISTRIBUTED IN ACCRA AREA, BUT EVEN IF THE REFINERY REOPENS SOON IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST THREE DAYS BEFORE NEW SUPPLIES OF GASOLINE REACH THE MARKET. IF WORKERS REMAIN ON STRIKE FOR AN APPRECIABLE TIME, TRANSPORT IN COUNTRY WILL COME TO A HALT.

9. COMMENT: RE "FOREIGN POWER" REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 ABOVE, WE THINK THIS IS A RED HERRING. HOWEVER, THE SMC MAY BE REFERRING TO THE USSR. WE KNOW ACHEAMPONG BELIEVES THE SOVIETS ARE OUT TO UNSEAT MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS, E.G. HIMSELF. SOMEWHAT PARADOXICALLY, ACCRA HAS, DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS, REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM. EXCEPT FOR ANGRY PROFESSIONALS, THERE IS NO SENSE OF PANIC. MEMBERS OF THE ELITE ARE TENSE AND THE SMC AND MILITARY JITTERY, BUT THE AVERAGE GHANAIAIN SEEMS TO BE GOING ABOUT HIS BUSINESS AS USUAL.

SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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